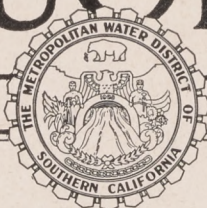


• COLORADO RIVER • AQUEDUCT NEWS

THE METROPOLITAN WATER DISTRICT



OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

VOLUME XIX

JANUARY 1952

No. 1

Rain Fails to Solve Area's Water Shortage

Despite welcome rains that have broken Southern California's seven year drought, Colorado River water continues to be the principal source of supply for many of the 44 cities now members of the Metropolitan Water District.

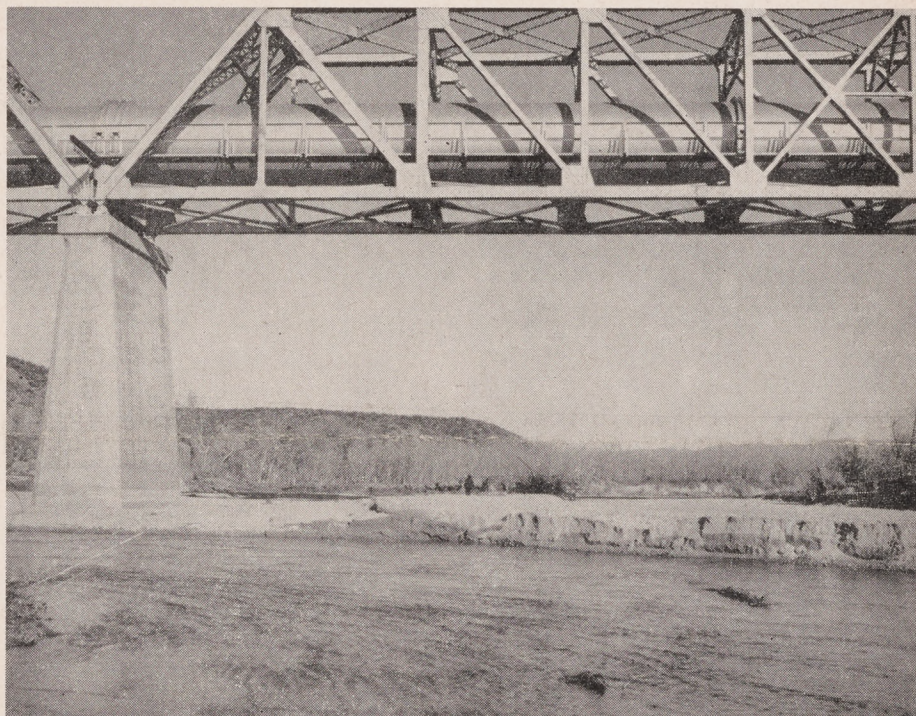
Reports from water authorities indicate that, in spite of above normal rainfall in most areas, the gains in surface or underground storage have been relatively slight. In San Diego, for example, the city's reservoirs held only 22 per cent of capacity after the recent rains. Even while water was being impounded from the surrounding watersheds, the city continued to bring in Colorado River water to help build up a reserve for the coming summer months.

Rainfall throughout the Metropolitan Water District service area generally was greater for the first seven months of the current rainfall year than for a normal 12 month period, as the following rain table shows:

	To January 31	12-Month Normal
San Bernardino	15.89	17.05
Los Angeles	17.86	15.20
Riverside	11.87	11.45
San Diego	11.02	10.30
Santa Ana	15.29	14.40
San Bernardino	15.89	17.05

In the face of those statistics, which appear to show an optimistic condition, the U. S. Geological Survey has announced that local water conditions are "disappointing." The USGS review said "most of Southern California's reservoirs received only small amounts of water."

Joseph Jensen, chairman of the Metropolitan Water District Board, commenting on the government report, said:



The usually placid Santa Ana River when swollen by the recent heavy rain left its bed to carve a new channel. Above the water is shown flowing parallel to a pipe section of the upper feeder of the Colorado River Aqueduct. A short distance beyond this point the river flowed under the aqueduct "bridge" and resumed its normal course.

"This points up the fact that, regardless of how much rain we may get, we are increasingly dependent upon the Colorado River for the water necessary for Southern California's industrial and residential development.

"Wells in representative areas showed a drop of eight feet just last year," he continued. "The principal index well in the San Gabriel Valley has dropped 90 feet in the past seven drought years. During that same period we have lost two years and eight months of normal rainfall most of which can never be regained."

Mr. Jensen said that these conditions emphasize the need for protecting the Colorado River supply from attempts currently being made by Arizona to

(Continued on Page Three)

Board Reaffirms Central Basin Annexation Policy

The District's Board of Directors at its regular meeting this month disapproved the City of Vernon's application for separate annexation to the district. However, the board at the same meeting reaffirmed Vernon's inclusion in the proposed Central Basin Municipal Water District as a possible District annexation unit.

The Central Basin district encompasses the entire coastal ground water basin extending from the Whittier Narrows to Long Beach and from Compton to the Orange County boundary line. It has an area of approximately 200

(Continued on Page Two)

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Published monthly in the interest of Field and Office Workers on the Colorado River Aqueduct, and for the information of all other citizens of the Metropolitan Water District.

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Ben P. Griffith Receives "Up To The Minute" Award

Ben P. Griffith, President of the Colorado River Association, was one of twelve Los Angeles business executives to receive an "Up To The Minute" award for outstanding public service or business achievements during 1951.

The award was presented to Mr. Griffith this month at a luncheon in the Biltmore Hotel given by the Los Angeles Advertising Club, in cooperation with "Minute" magazine.

In honoring Mr. Griffith for his splendid public service in heading the Colorado River Association, George Stromme, publisher of the magazine, emphasized that the Association has a single important objective — the protection of the water supply for the homes, industries and farms of Southern California.

Stromme pointed out that the public information program being carried on by the Association was proving highly effective in crystallizing public opposition to the proposed Central Arizona Project, which endangers California's Colorado River water supply.

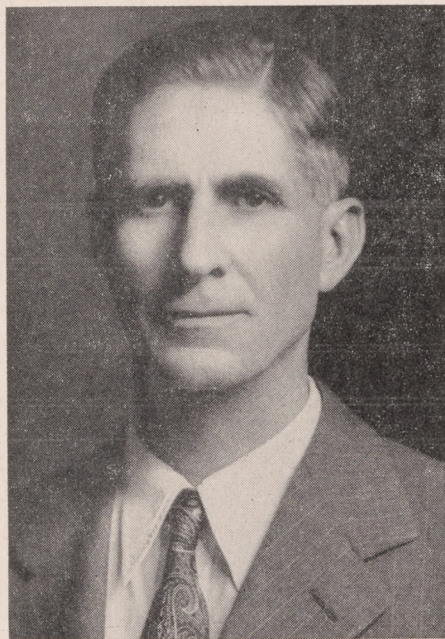
Mr. Griffith has been connected with the Colorado River Association since its organization in 1947. He is the executive vice-president of the Griffith Construction Company and is a member of the Los Angeles Airport Commission.

Vernon Annexation

(Continued from Page One)

square miles and an assessed valuation of about \$800,000,000.

Representing the City of Vernon at the meeting were City Engineer Walter Hollingworth, City Attorney Carson Hubbard, Special Counsel Edward Young, and W. E. Alworth, Executive Secretary of the Vernon Chamber of Commerce.



ROBERT A. SKINNER

Name Robert A. Skinner Assistant Chief Engineer

The Board of Directors this month approved the appointment by General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer of Robert A. Skinner to the newly created position of Assistant Chief Engineer.

Mr. Skinner joined the District in 1933 as an Assistant Engineer. He was appointed Office Engineer in 1943 and served in this capacity until his recent appointment as Assistant Chief Engineer.

The Board also approved this month the appointment of Senior Engineer Harris V. Crawshaw to succeed Mr. Skinner as Office Engineer. Mr. Crawshaw was first employed by the District in 1928 as a Junior Engineer.

At the same time the Board announced that the duties and responsibilities of Ezra Rider, Senior Engineer, have been increased. He will now report directly to the General Manager and Chief Engineer. Mr. Rider was first employed on the Colorado River project in 1926.

Henry J. Mills, formerly Construction Engineer, has been named Construction and Operation Engineer and will be in charge of the greater portion of the projects to be constructed by the District. Mr. Mills was first employed by the District in 1928.

In an ordinance adopted by the Board, the Chief Electrical Engineer has been designated to act in the absence or disability of both the General Manager and Chief Engineer and of the Assistant Chief Engineer.

For the RECORD

(The following items are noted from the report of General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer, filed January 1952, covering District operations for December 1951.)

Annexation Proceedings — At an election held on December 18, the voters of the Altadena-La Crescenta area approved the formation of the Foothill Municipal Water District by a 3.3 to 1 majority. Directors for the new District were selected at the same election.

Construction — Construction of the Eagle Rock connection and lateral for service to the City of Los Angeles is now approximately 60 per cent completed.

Hoover Dam — The District and Southern California Edison Company systems operated in parallel continuously throughout the month. Energy delivered to the Edison system totaled 22,389,904 kwhr and the peak delivery was 121,000 kw. The water level in Lake Mead on Dec. 31 was at elevation 1153.12 feet, 4.13 feet lower than on November 30. Usable storage was 17,846,000 acre-feet, a decrease of 488,000 acre-feet for the month. The discharge of the Colorado at Hoover Dam averaged 13,500 cfs compared with 13,700 in November.

Parker Dam — The Lake Havasu water level varied from a low at elevation 447.0 feet to a high of 448.7 on December 31. Discharge of the river at Parker Dam averaged 11,800 cfs compared with 9,600 in November.

Pumping — Pumping was continuous throughout the month with one pump unit per plant except for additional pumping for a few hours at Hayfield and Eagle and cessation of pumping at Intake and Gene for one day for flow regulation.

Distribution — San Jacinto reservoir water level was at elevation 1500.4 feet at the end of the month, with available storage of 1231.4 acre-feet. On November 31 the water level at Lake Mathews was at elevation 1347.89 feet, representing live storage of 86,148 acre-feet, a decrease for the month of 2,511 acre-feet. At the Weymouth Softening and Filtration Plant Colorado River water was softened from an average hardness of 318 ppm to 125 ppm at an average rate of 60.2 cfs. The rate of inflow varied from a minimum of 54.8 to a maximum of 84.0 cfs, or 54 million gpd.

Former General Manager Julian Hinds Expresses Appreciation To Employees For Loyal Service

In a letter received this month addressed to all District employees, former General Manager and Chief Engineer Julian Hinds expressed his appreciation for the retirement party which was held in his honor December 28.

In his letter to the employees Mr. Hinds said:

"I wish to thank you for the 'fuss' you made over me at the time of my retirement. You were grand, just as you always have been.

"I cannot make a list of all the things you should be thanked for, and to decide just which particular things to mention is difficult. It seems appropriate however to mention the lovely watch, which I am told came from all of you. It has already assumed an indispensable place in my new way of life, and I shall cherish it always, not as a gift from all, but as coming from each of you.

"The much appreciated scroll will likewise be cherished as having come from each of you individually, as attested by the complete list of signatures. My thanks to all, and especially to those unknown individuals who undertook the labor of collecting signa-

tures and compiling this document.

"I also appreciated and enjoyed the three parties given for me — one by the department heads, one by the Los Angeles office, and one by my wife. It was inspiring to have these three last-minute glimpses of those who are carrying on for the District, and who are, I expect, to carry gloriously on indefinitely into the future.

"I want to express my appreciation for having had the opportunity to work with such a splendid group of people. I am proud of the Colorado River Aqueduct, and I am proud to have been a member of the organization that brought it into being, and got it well established as a going concern, the greatest project of its kind in the world, and the foundation for a great future for Southern California."

Water Shortage

(Continued from Page One)

secure Congressional passage of a reclamation project bill that would drastically reduce Southern California's share of water, thereby placing a ceiling on future expansion in this area.



A. W. McKINLAY

A.W. McKinlay, Ruth Thiers Receive Twenty-Year Pins

Controller A. W. McKinlay and Ruth K. Thiers, Secretary to General Counsel James Howard, this month joined the ranks of employees who have been with the District twenty years and received their service pins.

Chairman of the Board Joseph Jensen presented Mr. McKinlay with his pin at the regular monthly meeting of the Board January 8.

Mr. McKinlay was first employed by the District as an Accountant January 4, 1932. In 1933 he was named Chief Accountant and in 1948 was appointed Assistant Controller. He has been the District Controller since 1949.

Miss Thiers joined the District in January, 1932 as a Stenographer. She has served as Secretary to the General Counsel since 1937.

West Basin Annexation Vote Is Set For March 11

West Basin Municipal Water District officials have called an election for March 11, at which time residents of Inglewood and certain adjacent unincorporated areas will vote on annexation to the West Basin district.

If the vote is favorable, Inglewood and the unincorporated areas involved will become members of the Metropolitan Water District and eligible to receive Colorado River water.

According to water officials, underground water basins in the area have been seriously depleted in recent years.



E. W. Rockwell (right), Chief Electrical Engineer, on behalf of Gene camp employees receives from John Grover, editorial writer of the Los Angeles Mirror, several of the more than 100 books which Mr. Grover presented this month to the camp library.

NEWS FROM FIELD AND OFFICE



Scout Michael Parker reports to his grandfather General Manager and Chief Engineer Robert B. Diemer on the results of a recent trek he made into the wilds of the Colorado River aqueduct country. In the historic tradition of pioneers, Michael wears a coonskin hat as he points to aqueduct map.

Marvin Stephens, Draftsman, has an answer for the recent increase in transit fares. He is launching his own "Fresh Air" jitney system, which will operate between his home in Baldwin Park and downtown Los Angeles. The plan hinges on his being able to get his car started.

Gene Reynolds, Mechanical Foreman, who has been a bundle of nerves lately, has calmed down since the arrival of his first grandchild, Shirley Gene Mather, born January 16.

Huge carpets of varying degrees of blue and purple are covering sections of the desert near Gene camp, according to Dan Gabele, System Operator. He says that in his sixteen years in the desert he has never seen such a heavy growth of Verbena and Lupin, resulting from the recent heavy rains.

Glad to hear that Superintendent Tom Walsh out at Gene is convalescing after his recent illness.

Robert Whaley, Engineering Aide at Gene, is the first man to come in this year with a good size catch of fish. Bob caught several nice bass ranging from 2 pounds to 3½ pounds.

Ray Kirkby, Engineer, rain-bound in his Sherman Oaks home during the recent storms, received a wire from his brother in Cincinnati offering him an opportunity of going into the business of manufacturing water wings.

Walt Roys, Station Chief at Eagle Mountain, calls in to say that now is the time to visit his part of the desert. Temperatures have been in the low seventies.

Scientists have long been able to split hairs and even weigh pencil marks on paper. However, it remained for our own Maynard Anderson, Engineer, to recently successfully determine the weight of a bell ring.

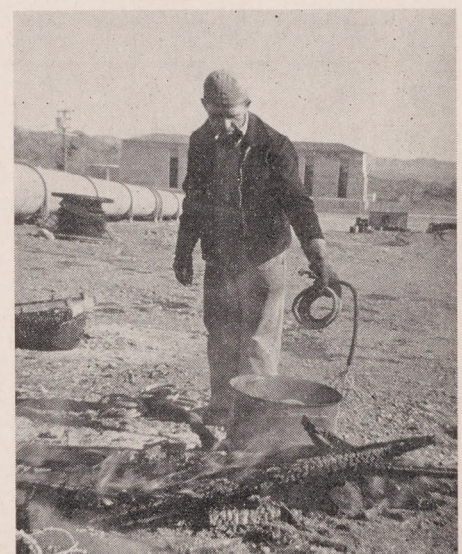
A "gentleman" who for obvious reasons shall be nameless, when faced with a rising tide of flood waters in his basement, tactfully handed his wife a small crowbar. Believe it or not the little woman was able to punch a hole through the stucco foundation and save the house from further damage.

Nelda Thorson, Telephone Operator at the Softening plant, announces plans to wed Donald Troutman of Pomona, Sunday, February 10.

The vast amount of groceries being purchased out at Gene would seem to assure the success of the father and son banquet scheduled for February 12 in the Parker Dam Mess hall.

Gene camp ladies gave a baby shower this month for Mrs. William Beals, wife of the school principal at Parker Dam. Mr. and Mrs. Beals make their home at Gene.

Eloise Lefebvre, Secretary to E. W. Rockwell, Chief Electrical Engineer, plans to leave her position soon in order to devote more time to her family.



James Yaklowich, Maintenance Mechanic at Gene camp, melts down lead in camp's drive to collect scrap metal.